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E-Street Voice

Monthly Newsletter from BOSCO Bengaluru

April 30, 2023

Editorial Note

Towards Inculcation of Earth-Consciousness

‘Bengaluru was never this warm even during summer,’ was a lament that was in the air in recent months. Occasional statements like, ‘Our city is gradually becoming a concrete jungle,’ and ‘Where are our lakes?’ point to the answer that is as clear as daylight even as questions arise in one’s mind.

As per the reports of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the year’s first heat wave was recorded in Karnataka on March 3, 2023. Till March 9, the state had recorded four heatwave days. As per the official website of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), changes in the Earth’s climate since the mid-20th century are driven by human activities.

“A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people,” said, Franklin D. Roosevelt, former President of the United States.

World Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22, to create awareness about environmental problems across the world and initiate proactive measures for environmental conservation. The theme of World Earth Day 2023, was "Invest in Our Planet", a clarion call for businesses to shift towards sustainable practices.

Societal conscientization on environmental protection and preservation is evidently the need of the hour. Concerted efforts from all strata of society along with policy-level interventions are quintessential for optimum results in this direction. Let us relentlessly strive to impart environmental education to children and young people in order to cultivate in them a ‘pro-Earth’ mindset to make our planet cleaner, greener, and sustainable.



Fr. Prasad SDB

Earth Day Celebrations



World Earth Day was celebrated in BOSCO Yuvodaya on April 22, 2023. The session started with a short prayer thanking Mother Earth. The ses-

sion began with an explanation about the importance of celebrating World Earth Day by Vinnarasi, Team Member, BOSCO Yuvodaya. Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya explained about God's creations in nature which give happiness, love, and peace to others, and how the planet has to be protected. He spoke about the importance of saving water and electricity, conserving wildlife, saying no to plastic, planting more trees, saving trees, and recycling. The children were asked to draw a picture of the earth. Twenty-eight children of the open shelter were part of the celebration.

Meeting of Prospective Foster Care Parents

Foster Care Programme, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized a meeting with prospective parents at BOSCO Mane on April 25, 2023. Obalesh K, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, introduced the purpose of the meeting. Briefing about BOSCO and its services Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, said that the Foster Care project was born out of the belief that family is the best place for a child to grow up in. The vision was to give children without families a chance to experience and grow up in a family. He said that BOSCO has become a model for the state of Karnataka.

Ganesh Murthy, PO(NIC), DCPU Bengaluru South, explained the procedures to be followed in applying for fostering a child and also the follow-up thereby. Soumya, PO(NIC), DCPU Bengaluru North briefed about the five District Child Protection Units in Bengaluru and the units that the parents need to visit in



order to give their applications.

Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, explained the concept of foster care, eligibility to become a care provider under foster care, children who are eligible for placements, rights of children and foster parents in foster families, the procedure involved in becoming foster parents, required documents, legal framework and roles of authorities such as CWC members. Twenty-three prospective parents participated in the meeting.

Awareness to Stakeholders



Child Safety Net (CSN) Project, BOSCO Bengaluru organized awareness programmes for the Traffic Police, Police Officials, and BBMP staff – Sweepers and Supervisors, and Anganwadi teachers in their locations of intervention, during April 2023. PN Basavaraju, Coordinator, CSN Project introduced BOSCO, its programmes, and services for the welfare of the children. He spoke about the steps to be taken to make Bengaluru a child-friendly city. He requested the support of the stakeholders in identifying children employed, children in difficult situations, and children in conflict with the law so that every child may be safe and happy. Hundred and twenty traffic police, police officials, BBMP workers, supervisors, and Anganwadi teachers attended the sessions.

Health Camp at BOSCO Mane



Health Care Department, BOSCO Bengaluru organized a health camp at BOSCO Mane for the boys of the centre on April 29, 2023. Dr. Abraham, St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru did the general check-up of the children of Mane and Vikas. He referred seven boys with dental caries to the dentist, one boy to the cardiologist, one boy to an ophthalmologist, and six boys suffering from skin problems to a dermatologist. He observed that children's diets should include foods rich in protein. Overall, the general health condition of the boys was good. Seventy-two boys from BOSCO Mane and Vikas benefited from the health camp.

Parents Meeting Organized at BOSCO Mane



BOSCO Vikas and Mane organized a meeting for the parents of the school-going children at the centre on April 1, 2023. Mr. Papaiah, Coordinator, BOSCO Vikas, briefed the gathering about the summer vacation. He asked the parents to take good care of the children at home by engaging them in meaningful and productive activities. He also asked the parents to take care

of their food and nutrition. Savitha and Sujatha, Coordinator and Counselor, BOSCO Mane, spoke about documents to be submitted, like parents' Aadhaar cards, child's Aadhaar card, ration cards, caste certificates, religious documents, and pan cards necessary for availing the benefits of the Government schemes. The staff gave awareness of drug abuse and its ill effects.

Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Mane, exhorted the parents to help their wards learn self-discipline and asked them to send the children back to the centre after the vacation promptly. He shared about the summer camp being organized for the children after they come back from vacation. Fifty parents and guardians attended the meeting.

Cancer Detection Camp



BOSCO Health Care Project in coordination with BOSCO Nilaya organized a Cancer Awareness and Detection Camp for the people in the community residing near the centre, on April 15, 2023. Dr. Ranga Nayaki, Gynaecologic Oncologist, Dr. Javeria, Breast Surgeon, and Dr. Guru Suhas, Otolaryngologist, Vijayakumar, Coordinator, three nurses and two MSW Social Workers from Indian Cancer Society, Bengaluru, conducted the camp.

The doctors checked the weight, BP, and sugar of the attendees of the camp and conducted the tests for screening for cervical, oral, and breast cancer. The team also gave awareness about cancer, various types of cancer, their detection, and treatment. A few were prescribed medicines based on their illnesses. Around ninety people from the surrounding communities of BOSCO Nilaya availed the services of the camp.

Foster Care Awareness



Foster Care awareness programmes were organized for the anganwadi mothers of Kamasandra Anganwadi Centre and R Colony Anganwadi Centre by BOSCO Foster Care Programme on April 17 and 18, 2023. The awareness programmes were organized in order to disseminate information about the foster care concept, adoption, the procedures involved in foster care and adoption, the various stakeholders involved in the programme and their roles and responsibilities. Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme conducted the awareness programmes and he requested the anganwadi mothers to pass on the information to their families, friends and the community people and also help BOSCO in identifying potential parents and children for the foster care programme. Twenty-seven anganwadi mothers were a part of these programmes.

Karate Belt Grading Exam

BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli organized the karate belt grading exam for the trainees of the centre, to assess their learning levels and to award the Yellow Belt for the trainees so that they are promoted to the next stage of training on April 2, 2023. Mr. Ningappa and the team trained the boys for about two and a half hours. Mr. Maralinga, Karate Instructor addressed the trainees and said that there is a long way for the trainees to go in learning karate. He said that karate is a self-defence technique. It helps in developing self-discipline. Fr. Joshy, Director, **BOSCO** Life Skill Training Centre said that self-discipline and punctuality are very much essential for the trainees to



accomplish the skills. Four trainees were awarded gold medals and a certificate for their good performance. Seventeen trainees underwent the training.

Public Awareness Programmes



BOSCO teams working in BMTC and KSRTC bus stand, Adjacent Railway Street Presence (ARSP) project, **BOSCO** Nilaya and Nivas conducted awareness for the public, passengers and commuters, shopkeepers, in the bus stands, railway stations, and market areas during April 2023. The teams reached out to the public by way of distributing pamphlets containing information on child rights, child-related laws, and acts, and issues such as child labour, child marriage, child trafficking, child begging, missing children, child runaways, vulnerable children, and child helpline-1098. Around nine hundred and fifty passengers, commuters, shopkeepers, and other public benefitted from the awareness.

Stakeholders Meeting



BOSCO Nilaya in coordination with the **BOSCO** SJPU project team met the police officials at Kalasipalya Police Station, Bengaluru on April 13, 2023. The purpose of the visit was to introduce the Nilaya team to the police personnel and develop a rapport with them so that they support the team in its rescue and rehabilitation activities. Fr. Jude Anand SDB, Director, **BOSCO** Nilaya, and Ramaswamy, Coordinator, SJPU project introduced the **BOSCO** Nilaya team to the police officials. They briefed about **BOSCO** and its activities and sought the help of the police in the activities of **BOSCO** Nilaya and in creating a child-friendly police station. Ms. Preeti, Police Officer, Kalasipalya Police Station, was happy to meet the team and know about the activities of **BOSCO**. She ensured support to the team whenever required. Fourteen Police Officials, **BOSCO** Nilaya, and the SJPU team were present at the meeting.

Planning and Monitoring Meeting

Foster Care, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized a Planning and Monitoring meeting for Social Mobilizers and NGO Supporting Staff at Don Bosco, Hospet, on April 27, 2023. The programme started with the prayer song by DB Tech students followed by watering the plant. Mr. Raghavendra, Former Member, KSCPCR explained in detail the role of CWC, DCPO, NGOs, foster care concept, criteria for selection, legal procedures, etc. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, appreciated the Bellary District Unit for being the role model for other districts for the implementation of the foster care programme. He said that BOSCO had placed a total of twenty-six children in foster care in the ten districts of Karnataka. He also thanked the officials of the department, DCPU, CWC and the project partners for the support extended in implementing the programme.

Ms. Vijayalakshmi, Chairperson, CWC, Bellary and Vijayanagar, Ms. Subhadra Devi, CDPO, Vijayanagar, Mr. Channabasappa Patil, PO (NIC), and Fr. Roshan, Executive Director, Don Bosco, Hospet spoke on the occasion. Mr. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Program, presented the statistical data



and placement of children during the period. Social Mobilizers presented the challenges and achievements of the foster care programme implemented in the ten districts of Karnataka. There was a discussion on taking the programme forward in the ten districts of Karnataka.

Mr. Shivamallu welcomed the participants, and Mr. Ganesh, Social Mobilizer, Don Bosco Bellary proposed the vote of thanks. Mr. Manjunath and Ms. Kalavathi, Members, CWC were also present in the meeting. Around thirty members from ten districts participated in the meeting.

Exposure Visit to Lakme Salon



The trainees of the Beautician course at BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan were taken to Lakme Salon, Frazer Town, Bengaluru on April 13, 2023. Ms. Roopa and the Lakme Salon staff gave advice on the various products used at the Lakme parlour, particularly skin-related products, and demonstrated the various procedures used in the parlour.

Trainees were educated about self-grooming and other topics. Twenty trainees were part of this exposure visit.

Session on Problem-Solving



A life skill session on 'problem-solving' was conducted for the trainees of BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli on April 22, 2023. Bro. Lijo captured the attention of the group with a song from where they were asked to pick up words, phrases, etc., that touched them. He spoke about the importance of getting help and guidance from others in achieving success in life. He also shared the importance of teamwork in solving the problem. Twenty trainees benefitted from the session.

Ambedkar Jayanthi Celebrations



BOSCO Yuvakendra and BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli celebrated Ambedkar Jayanthi to commemorate the birthday of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar at their respective centres on April 14, 2023. The cele-

brations began with the garlanding of the photo of Dr. Ambedkar. The Directors and the staff spoke about the great personality – the recipient of Bharata Ratna, India's highest civilian award, enumerating his life story, his contributions to society as a social activist, his achievements and struggles to deal with the caste system, and his persistent fight against all institutional and social odds. He framed the Constitution for the country.

The directors and the staff exhorted the youths and the trainees to imbibe his values and principles and follow his path of truth and nobility. Eleven youths from Yuvakendra and twenty-five trainees from Sumanahalli centres participated in the celebration.

International Day of Dance



BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli celebrated International Day of Dance at the centre on April 27, 2023. Fr. Joshy, Centre Director explained the significance of the celebration. The advantages of dance were explained to the trainees. Dance is a good form of exercise and also brings discipline to the body and soul of the individuals. Five solo dances and three duet dances were organized as part of the competition. The trainees were happy to get an opportunity to showcase their dancing skills. Eighteen trainees along with the staff were part of the celebrations.

Health Check-up at Yuvodaya



BOSCO Yuvodaya organized a health check-up for the children at the Open Shelter in coordination with the Health Care Department, BOSCO Bengaluru on April 24, 2023. Dr. Abraham from St. Martha's Hospital conducted the camp. Dr. Abraham noted that there was an improvement in the health and hygiene of the children residing in the Open Shelter and there was better hygiene maintained in the centre. However, he observed that a few children were undernourished. He suggested giving them nutritious foods and supplements. He opined that the oral hygiene of the children has to improve. Thirty-three boys availed the benefits of the camp.

Certificates Awarded



BOSCO Computer Training Project, BOSCO Mane, Bengaluru organized a Certificate Distribution programme for the students who completed the three-month Basic and Tally computer training course from the centre on April 26, 2023. Addressing the trainees, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, emphasized the significance of qualifying oneself in life.

Forty-eight trainees completed the computer course. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Mane, Fr. Jose Joseph, Administrator were present on the occasion.

Outing to Visvesvaraya Museum



BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan organized an outing to Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technical Museum for the inmates of the centre on April 11, 2023. The children were exposed to machines and artefacts related to science and technology. They explored the exhibition halls on Engines, Electricity, Fun Science, Space, Biotechnology, and Electronics. Children found the animated dinosaurs, the life-size model of the Wright Brothers' flyer, and the steam locomotive very interesting. The presence of attractive exhibits made this a place for children to develop a love and interest for science. Nine girls visited the museum along with the staff.

Visit to Seva Sadan



Trainees of the Carpentry Trade Unit, Welding Unit and Electrical Trade Unit of BOSCO Sumanahalli visited Seva Sadan, Koramangala on April 5, 2023. Br. Francis, Seva Sadan welcomed the group and gave a small orientation about their activities. Mr. Mahesh, Supervisor, Seva Sadan explained the activities that usually take place in the different units. Trainees had an opportunity to understand the activities of the centre. They clarified the doubts regarding their respective trades. One trainee from the Carpentry Unit, three trainees from the Welding Unit, four trainees from the Electrical Unit, Bheemappa, Electrical Instructor and Shyam Raj, Carpentry Instructor were part of the exposure visit.

Parents' Meeting



BOSCO Nivas organized a meeting with the parents of the children attending tuition classes at the centre on April 12, 2023. The team discussed the performance of their respective wards and the progress of the children in the schools. The team also discussed the importance of education and parenting skills. They spoke about spending quality time with their children, listening to the children, communicating with the children, and being role models to their children. Sixteen mothers attended the meeting.

Exposure Visit



The children from BOSCO Rainbow Home were taken to St. Theresa's Multi Specialty Hospital, Rajajinagar as part of their exposure visit on April 3, 2023. Dr. Drisya and Ms. Serin, Coordinator, Grace Hospitals encouraged the children to have an interaction with the patients. The children spent time sharing their joy and peace by performing a cultural programme and interacting with the inmates individually. Twenty girls from the centre along with two staff visited the hospital.

Outing to Wonder La



The Staff and Management of BOSCO Bengaluru went on a one-day outing to Wonder La, Ramana-nagara District on April 30, 2023. The staff played the water games and the dry games. They enjoyed the adventurous games. It was a pleasant change and relaxation for them. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, and Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya were present for the picnic. Hundred and two staff were a part of the one-day outing.

Health Awareness



Foster Care Programme, BOSCO Bengaluru, in coordination with BOSCO Health Care Department, organized an awareness session for the adolescent children placed in Group Foster Care on April 24, 2023. Ms. Uma Rai, Social Worker, St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru spoke about the adolescence period and social changes that take place in an adolescent. She focused on the food and nutrition of adolescents and a balanced diet. She briefed the gathering about menstrual hygiene. Eight children of Group Foster Care I and II, foster care parents, and their biological children attended the awareness programme.

Session on Coping with Emotions



BOSCO Yuvakendra organized a life skill session on 'Coping with Emotions and Stress' for the youths of the centre on April 17, 2023. Rajashekhar, Coordinator, BOSCO Yuvakendra briefed about different emotions like happiness, sadness, anger, etc. with examples. He guided the youths on dealing with their emotions and having control over themselves. He also explained how stress affects one's life and the various ways of dealing with stress. Fourteen youths attended the session.

BOSCO Yuvakendra



The summer camp was organized for the youths of BOSCO Yuvakendra boys at Don Bosco, Srirampura, Mananthavadi, from April 24 to 27, 2023. Mr. Nagaraj, Mr. Hanumanth, and Mr. Hrithik from Dream a Dream conducted the camp. The camp was inaugurated in the presence of Fr. Mathew, Rector, Don Bosco, Srirampura, and Sr. Silvy Lawrence, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra. The activities included sessions on goal setting, agreements, time management, under-



standing life, helping them to discover their talents, treasure hunt, life skill classes, indoor and outdoor sports, skits, handcrafts, story-telling, and a campfire. A one-day picnic was organized at Chamundeshwari temple, Mysore palace, and zoo. The boys enjoyed the sessions and the one-day outing. Twenty-three boys were a part of the summer camp.

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan



BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan organized a week-long summer camp for the school and college-going children of the centre at Chirugu Kalakuteera, Yelahanka from April 24 to 30, 2023. Mr. Dharma, Actor, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Ms. Sheeba Thomas, Director, BOSCO

Vatsalya Bhavan, were present during the inauguration. The activities of the camp included an ice-breaking session, different styles of painting, painting a wall, dream catcher creation, tattoo and face painting, pencil sketches, writing poems and songs, a session on food and nutrition, and trekking to Nandi hills. The activities were conducted by Mr. Lokesh, Actor of Big Boss Fame, Mr. Raghu, Clay Artist, Mr. Sachre, Pencil Drawing Artist, Mr. Babu Patil, Writer and Poet, Ms. Pratibha, Craft Teacher and Dr. Ramya, Homeopathic Doctor. The camp helped in exploring the inner talents, interests, and goals of the children. Forty girls participated in the camp.

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan: Transit Home

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan organized a summer camp for the transit home children and fresh children at the centre from April 26 to 29, 2023. The camp was inaugurated in the presence of Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru and Ms. Sheeba Thomas, Director, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, volunteers and centre staff. The activities included theme-based drawing, dance, a fashion show, and an awareness programme on personal hygiene. The ac-



tivities were conducted by the staff and the volunteers. It was a good opportunity for the children to learn new skills and also exhibit their talent. Twenty-six children participated in the camp.



Camp for Tuition Children



A two-day summer camp was organized for the children attending tuition classes in the Devaraj Urs area and Gandhinagar area at Sumanahalli Society on April 28 and 29, 2023. The camp was inaugurated by Fr. George Kannanthanam, Director, Sumanahalli Society, Fr. Joshy SDB, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli, Sr. Christeena, Ave Maria, Mr. Bairaj, Coordinator, Gandhinagar area Coordinator, and two representatives of children by watering the plant. Fr. George in his inaugural message said that it is good

to organize such camps in order to make use of the time constructively during the summer vacation. The two days were full of fun and frolic. The activities were interesting and the children enjoyed them. Br. Tom and Jiss were creative in organizing games. Children were given awareness on Leprosy. Sixty-five children attending tuition classes availed the benefits of the camp.

At MCT Quarters

Adjacent Railway Street Presence Project (ARSP), BOSCO Bengaluru organized a one-day summer camp and one-day outing to Cubbon Park for the children of the MCT Quarters community attending tuition classes on April 27 and 28, 2023. Fr. Johnson, Director, ARSP Project in his inaugural address exhorted that children make the best use of opportunities provided during the camp.

The camp included child-friendly games, dance, drawing sessions, action songs, and a one-day outing to

Cubbon Park. Fun activities were organized and the children enjoyed playing. Children also participated in the concluding programme of the Bala Bhavan Summer Camp.

The camp helped in enhancing the talents of children and in making constructive use of time during the summer vacation. Forty-five children accompanied by ARSP Team and Tuition Teachers were part of the summer camp and one-day outing.



BOSCO: Homelink Child MISS Monthly Report

April- 2023



--	Male	Female	Total
Children rescued	318	65	383
Service provided	28	08	36
Grand Total	346	73	419

New Children Data of Contact Center/Area:

	Fresh		Repeated		
Contact Point	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Railway CHILDLINE	134	12	00	00	146
Bus stand BMTC	35	01	00	00	36
Bus stand KSRTC	24	02	00	00	26
BOSCO Yuvodaya	00	00	01	00	01
BOSCO Sumanahalli	02	00	00	00	02
BOSCO Nilaya	01	01	00	00	02
CHILDLINE	06	11	00	00	17
CSN	11	07	00	00	18
SJPU	23	16	00	00	39
ARSP	81	15	00	00	96
TOTAL	317	65	01	00	383

Final Action Taken:

Placement	Boys	Girls	Total
Referred to BOSCO Centers	31	26	57
Home Placement	259	23	282
Produced before CWC (Admission)	15	12	27
Shishumandir	01	00	01
Referred to OH	12	00	12
Referred to Hostels	00	04	04
TOTAL	318	65	383

Classification Report

Classification	Boys	Girls	Total
Accompanied	26	34	60
Unaccompanied	292	31	323
TOTAL	318	65	383